

● **Streets, Alleys, Ways, Public Areas and Squares.**

For the purpose of licensing and certification exemptions (for electrical utilities and linemen) described in RCW 19.28.091 and WAC 296-46A-935, "streets, alleys, ways, public areas and squares" are those areas owned, controlled, and maintained by a public entity such as a town, city, county, or state. Street lighting work, performed by utilities, in areas that have public access but are owned and controlled by private enterprise (i.e. private driveways and parking lots at churches and retail stores) is not exempt. Utilities may mount lighting fixtures on utility structures (i.e. poles, towers, etc.) that are used solely to support utility equipment and conductors that are supplying power to the customer's "point of contact" whether the structure is on public or private property.

● **New Requirements for an "Identification Plate" on Certain Equipment.**

This article is intended to highlight more of the new electrical WAC technical changes for our customers. The new rules are available on-line at the **Rules, Policies, & Regulations** link on our home page. The April 2001 printing of the rules should be available at our field offices by the time you read this newsletter. The rules were effective January 18, 2000 and mandatory April 18, 2001.

WAC 296-46A-092(8) defines an "identification plate as a phenolic or metallic plate or other similar material engraved in block letters at least 1/4" (6mm) high unless specifically required to be larger by this chapter, suitable for the environment and application. The letters and the background must be in contrasting colors. Screws, rivets, or methods specifically described in chapter 296-46A WAC must be used to affix an identification plate to the equipment or enclosure". Identification plates are intended to hold up to environmental conditions (and painting) and ensure that the equipment remains properly identified for its entire service life. Specific conditions may be set in other sections of WAC 296-46A that provide for other identification requirements.

WAC 296-46A-104(7) Identification of traffic management system components. Local government jurisdictions must use identification plates to identify traffic controller cabinets and system components that they are accepting as approved. Identification plates must meet the requirements in WAC 296-046A-092(8) and 104(7)(b). We will continue to accept the current product identification labels used by WSDOT for equipment and components that the WSDOT approves.

WAC 296-46A-110(2) Identification methods. Where electrical equipment is installed to obtain a series combination rating, the identification as required by Article 110-22 NEC, must be in the form of an identification plate that is substantially yellow in color. The words "CAUTION - SERIES RATED SYSTEM" must be on the label in letters at least 1/2" (13mm) high.

WAC 296-46A-22530(1) Outside feeders and WAC 296-46A-23040(5) Outside service disconnecting means. Under the specific conditions defined in these articles, outside feeder or service disconnecting means will now be permitted within sight and up to fifteen feet from the building or structure served. These feeder or service disconnecting means must have an identification plate with 1/2" high letters identifying the building/structure served and the disconnecting means' function as the building/structure main or service disconnect(s).

WAC 296-46A-23040(6) Service conductors. If the service conductors have a lesser ampacity than the overcurrent protection or the equipment rating that they terminate in or on, an identification plate with the ampacity of the conductors must be installed on the equipment. This requirement does not apply to simple dwelling unit services where the allowable conductor ampacity has been increased in compliance with NEC 310-15(b)(6).

WAC 296-46A-700(3) Emergency systems. All boxes and enclosures, including transfer switches, generators, and power panels for emergency systems and circuits must be permanently identified with an identification plate that is substantially **red in color**. Other types of permanent identification (i.e. box painted orange inside and out) will be acceptable for the identification of emergency receptacle outlets or standard ($4^{11}/_{16}$ inch or smaller) conduit junction boxes if suitable for the environment in which they are installed.

● **Becoming a Certified Specialty Electrician (Part 1 of 2)**

An individual must complete an APPLICATION FOR AN ELECTRICAL TRAINING CERTIFICATE and pay the appropriate fee (\$20.75). This certificate must be renewed annually. At renewal, the individual must submit a completed, signed, and notarized AFFIDAVIT OF EXPERIENCE from their employer or apprenticeship training director attesting to number of hours worked in the proper ratio, under supervision by a journeyman or specialty electrician, and in the appropriate electrical specialty work category. When a trainee has completed 4000 hours of experience in a specific specialty, they may apply for that specialty electrician examination. Acceptance of experience from another state or country toward exam eligibility is detailed in WAC 296-46A-420 to 440.

There is an opportunity for individuals with previous work experience, obtained outside of the parameters described above, to qualify this experience toward eligibility for these electrical specialty examinations: Domestic well (03A), Limited energy (06)-(residential sound experience only), HVAC/refrigeration limited energy system (06A), Nonresidential maintenance (07), Nonresidential lighting maintenance (07A), Residential maintenance (New-07B), and Door, window, gate and similar systems (New-10).

From January 18, 2001 to December 31, 2001 only, applications will be accepted if the individual submits all of the following:

- An APPLICATION FOR AN ELECTRICAL TRAINING CERTIFICATE (\$20.75).
- An APPLICATION FOR ELECTRICIAN EXAMINATION (\$69.50) (Old form name is APPLICATION FOR JOURNEYMAN OR SPECIALTY ELECTRICIAN CERTIFICATE). The fee includes the cost of the first three-year electrician certificate.
- A notarized letter from their previous employer(s) verifying a specific two-year time period that the individual “performed installation, service, maintenance, or repair work” in the appropriate electrical specialty. The employer must have been in the business of the specialty work during the entire verification period and must establish legal business status during this time with copies of their business license or RCW 18.27 contractor registration. Sole proprietors with two years of the above business documentation and experience may verify their own electrical installation experience.

Coincidental experience in more than one specialty, claimed for the same two-year time period, will not be allowed. If individuals have non-coincident time periods of electrical installation experience in more than one of the “open” specialty categories, they must submit a separate training certificate, exam application, and qualifying letter from their employer(s) along with the appropriate fees for each certificate and application.

● **Code Question of the Month**

This month’s Code Question: An examination or treatment chair in a dentist’s office is a patient care area and wiring methods installed in a concrete slab to feed this equipment must include an insulated copper equipment grounding conductor along with the branch circuit conductors and be installed in metallic raceway. **True or False?**

Last month’s Code Question: Each continuous-duty motor rated at more than ____ hp shall be protected from overload by an approved method (separate motor overload device, integral thermal protective device, etc.). **D. 1 hp [NEC 430-32(a)]**